Consultations begin in GB for caretaker CM

• GB Assembly's five-year term ends on Nov 24 • CM Gulbar Khan and Opposition Leader Kazim Mesum to meet Amir Muqam in Islamabad today

By Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan and Opposition Leader in GB Assembly Kazim Mesum will meet Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and GB Amir Muqam to nominate the caretaker chief minister, as the legislative body complete its five-year tenure on November 24.

Under GB Order 2018, if the GB chief minister, the opposition leader, and the federal minister fail to reach a consensus on the nomination of a caretaker chief minister, the prime minister of Pakistan, as chairman of the GB Council, has the authority to appoint a caretaker chief minister at his discretion.

Earlier, through a letter, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and GB Amir Muqam invited the GB chief minister and opposition leader for a consultation meeting to reach a consensus on nominating a candidate for the caretaker GB chief minister's position. The meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday (today) in Islamabad.

Talking to *Dawn*, Mr Muqam said that the five-year term of the current GB Assembly will expire on Nov 24 and under the GB Order 2018, elections must be held within 60 days. He added that, according to the Order, the GB chief minister, the opposition leader, and the federal minister should agree on one name for the caretaker chief minister.

Replying to a question, Mr Muqam said that in the meeting, efforts would be made to reach a consensus on nominating a suitable person for the post of caretaker chief minister. "If we cannot agree on a single name, the proposed names will be sent to prime minister, who, as chairman of the GB Council, has the discretion to nominate any suitable person for the position," he added.

Before consultation with federal minister, the GB chief minister and the opposition leader had failed to agree on a suitable candidate, as both had proposed different names. Source said it would be difficult to reach a consensus in the upcoming consultation meeting, and the matter would likely be referred to the prime minister.

Shooting mastery core objective of military training, says COAS

By Hamid Asghar

JHELUM: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir emphasised that "mastery in shooting must remain a core objective of military training".

He was addressing the participants at the closing ceremony of the 45th Pakistan Army Rifle Association (PARA) Central Meet 2025, held at the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) in Jhelum on Tuesday.

The event, which ran from October 1 to November 10 brought together over 2,000 participants from the Pakistan Army, Navy, Air Force, Civil Armed Forces, and provincial rifle associations, who showcased exceptional marksmanship and enthusiasm.

The Pakistan Army secured the 3rd Inter-Services Combat Shooting Championship 2025 by winning all four inter-services matches. The Punjab Regiment claimed the Unit Firing Proficiency Match (Group-I) title, while Sepoy Muhammad Irfan of Punjab Regiment was named Master at Arms. Naib Subedar Umar Farooq of the Army Marksmanship Unit won The Army Hundred Rifle Match Trophy.

Later, the COAS attended the centenary celebrations of Military College Jhelum as chief guest, where he inaugurated the Centenary Monument and College Museum. He lauded MCJ's contribution to grooming leadership, discipline, and patriotism, and placed a wreath at the Yadgar-i-Shuhada.

Upon arrival, the Army Chief was received by the Commander Rawalpindi Corps and the Inspector General Training and Evaluation.

Appointment of university registrar restored

• BHC directs payment of dues, privileges effective from April 22
• Declares interference by governor, Senate beyond legal authority

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court has accepted the petition of Dr Raheela Manzoor and directed the issuance of a formal notification for her appointment as Registrar of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU) Quetta, along with the payment of all dues and privileges effective from April 22 — the date of the Syndicate's approval.

The petitioner contended that after completing all legal formalities, interviews of shortlisted candidates were conducted during the 19th meeting of the Selection Board on April 17 this year.

The board unanimously recommended her name for the post of Registrar, and the University Syndicate subsequently approved the recommendation in its 24th meeting on April 22. Despite the completion of all legal requirements, the chancellor/governor's office withheld the notification on April 24, citing procedural irregularities, which compelled her to approach the court.

The respondents argued that dissenting notes from some members of the Selection Board and Syndicate had raised doubts about the process. They said the chancellor had referred the matter to the Senate under Section 24(2) of the Balochistan Universities Act, 2022. The Senate, in its meeting held on Aug 21, decided not to approve the appointment and directed that the post be re-advertised.

In its detailed judgement, a BHC division bench comprising Justice Iqbal Ahmed Kasi and Justice Muhammad Najmuddin Mengal observed that the recruitment process had begun through a formal advertisement, with scrutiny conducted under the supervision of the Higher Education Commission, and that interviews were properly held by the Selection Board.

The judgement stated that once the Syndicate approved the Selection Board's recommendation, the appointment became legally final, and any attempt by the chancellor/governor's office to withhold the notification amounted to interference in the administrative autonomy of the university. It added that dissenting opinions of a few members could not invalidate a majority decision.

The bench noted that, according to Section 11(7) of the Balochistan Universities Act, the chancellor's role is limited to ensuring compliance with laws and regulations and does not extend to exercising judicial or appellate authority over the Syndicate's decisions unless bad faith or illegality is established.

The Senate's decision to re-advertise the post could not nullify a legally completed appointment.

The court declared the withholding of the notification as arbitrary, unlawful and in violation of Articles 4 and 27 of the Constitution, which guarantee citizens protection of law, fair treatment and equality. It concluded that the interference by the chancellor's office was beyond its legal authority.

The court directed the respondents to issue the formal notification of Dr Raheela Manzoor's appointment as Registrar of SBKWU within 15 days of receiving the judgement and to pay all dues and benefits from April 22.

Terror attack at cadet college foiled, students, staff rescued

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attackers on the spot, it said, adding that three other terrorists managed to enter the premises but were later cornered and neutralised inside the college's administrative block.

The ISPR said the terrorists aimed to replicate the barbaric 2014 attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar, intending to spread fear among the youth of tribal districts pursuing quality education for a brighter future.

The statement added that the militants inside the college were in contact with their handlers in Afghanistan, receiving instructions from across the border. "This brutal act, orchestrated from Afghan soil, contradicts claims by the Afghan Taliban regime regarding the absence of such terrorist groups on their territory," it said.

SECURITY pesonnel stand guard outside the Cadet College, Wana, after terrorist attack.—Dawn

"Pakistan reserves the right to respond against terrorists and their leadership operating from Afghanistan," the statement emphasised.

The ISPR said a clearance operation is underway to eliminate all Indian-sponsored militants.

It added that Pakistan's security forces and law enforcement agencies will continue their counterterrorism campaign under the Azm-i-Istehkam framework — approved by the Federal Apex Committee on the National Action Plan — until the complete eradication of foreign-backed terrorism from the country.

Meanwhile, a report from DHQ Hospital Wana confirmed that nine civilians, including men, women and children, sustained injuries when the explosion caused nearby structures to collapse. Hospital MS Dr Jan Muhammad said all injured individuals are receiving full medical treatment and necessary facilities.

It is worth mentioning that over the past year, terrorist incidents have sharply increased in Lower and Upper South Waziristan as well as North Waziristan, causing deep concern among residents. The surge includes bomb blasts, target killings, kidnappings for ransom, suicide attacks and assaults on security and police check posts.

27th Amendment lands in NA

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125 seats, PPP 74, MQM-P 22, PML-Q five, Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party four, and the PML-Z, Balochistan Awami Party and National Peoples Party one seat each. The opposition has 103 seats.

The session began with prayers for PML-N lawmaker Irfan Siddiqui, who passed away on Monday night.

Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal of the MQM referred to Article 140-A, which relates to local governments, and said his party's proposed amendments to the article "are not dead yet" and would be discussed as part of the 28th Amendment.

PPP leader Shazia Marri said President Asif Ali Zardari did not seek immunity as he had already endured eight years of imprisonment without conviction. She asserted that the PPP would never compromise on the 18th Amendment or the rights of the people.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif endorsed the MQM's call for strengthening local governments to address people's issues at the grassroots level. He noted that local government systems in Pakistan were introduced not by civilian governments but by three military dictators.

He also claimed that Pakistan's education curriculum had been prepared by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during the Afghan war, resulting in "different histories and geographies being taught across the country".

Ijazul Haq, son of former military ruler Gen Ziaul Haq, asked the minister to present before the house the curriculum allegedly prepared by the CIA.

'Playing' with Constitution

PTI's Sardar Latif Khosa accused the PPP of "playing naughtily" with the Constitution at the behest of the ruling PML-N.

PTI leader Amir Dogar said the 27th Amendment would paralyse the judiciary, adding that none of its clauses served the public interest. PTI lawmaker, Ali Muhammad Khan, said the amendment violated the 1949 Objectives Resolution.

PML-N's Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry said the FCC was being established to prevent extra-judicial decisions and reduce the Supreme Court's workload.

PPP's Sharmila Faruqi said the opposition should be "thankful" to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari for initiating a public debate on the amendment through his post on X. She also said India was attempting to provoke another war, but Pakistan's armed forces were ready to respond strongly.

Others who took part in the debate included Iqbal Afridi, Shahid Ahmed, Sehar Kamran, Qaisar Sheikh, Sher Afzal Marwat, Syed Hafeezuddin, Ali Qasim Gilani, and Bilal Kiani.

Ex-CJ seeks to protect SC's jurisdiction

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was a cornerstone of the 1973 Constitution. Any attempt to abolish, diminish, or subordinate the apex court undermines the very architecture of the constitutional order and is inconsistent with the will of the people as expressed in the 1973 Constitution, he argued.

According to him, the independence and jurisdiction of the SC are constitutional commands and the parliamentarians act as fiduciaries of the people and cannot go against these constitutional commands as set out in the preamble of the Constitution.

He was of the opinion that even a constitutional amendment could not abrogate SC's constitutional jurisdiction. Therefore, any attempt to abolish or undermine the SC's constitutional authority would violate the foundational principles of Constitution and threaten the continuity of the constitutional order itself, he added.

The framers of the Constitution intentionally enshrined SC's authority in a manner that underscored its independence and centrality to the constitutional system, he said. Its powers and jurisdiction were constitutional imperatives integral to the Constitution, according to the former chief justice.

The petitioner argued that the SC had already recognised that certain constitutional commands set out by the people, including judicial independence, could not be altered in a way that destroyed their essence.

Balochistan govt to expand free cancer cure plan

By Muhammad Akbar Notizai

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has announced an expansion of its Cancer and Deadly Diseases Treatment Plan, making it the first province to offer comprehensive, free-of-cost treatment for a wide range of life-threatening illnesses, including several major cancers.

This landmark initiative is part of a public-private partnership between the provincial government under the vision of chief minister and Roche Pharma.

Under the expanded programme, patients across Balochistan will now receive completely free treatment for several high-cost and debilitating diseases, including multiple sclerosis, Hemophilia, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), Diabetic Macular Edema, Breast, Liver, and Lung Cancers.

The formal launch of the expanded project, titled the Chief Minister's Initiative for Treatment of Cancer and Deadly Diseases Expansion Project, was finalised during a meeting at the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

The session was chaired by Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, with participation from senior officials of the Health Department and representatives from Roche Pharma.

An MOU was signed between Health Secretary Dawood Khilji and Roche Pakistan MD Hifza Shamsi.

Justice Aminuddin likely to head federal court

Continued from Page 1

the provisions of the proposed amendment, the President would be constitutionally empowered to make such appointments to the newly-constituted court.

The proposal to establish the Federal Constitutional Court has been revived as part of the judicial reforms package incorporated in the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill.

The amendment aims to rationalise the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and introduce greater efficiency in the adjudication of constitutional questions.

According to government officials, the creation of the FCC is intended to reduce the Supreme Court's workload, ensure timely adjudication of constitutional cases, and strengthen the independence and credibility of the judicial system. The concept of a separate constitutional court is not new.

It was first introduced in the Charter of Democracy (CoD) signed by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in 2006.

The CoD envisaged the establishment of a specialised court dedicated solely to constitutional matters, allowing the Supreme Court to focus primarily on its appellate jurisdiction.

The idea resurfaced during discussions on the 26th Constitutional Amendment, but was shelved at the time following resistance from the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and certain other political factions.

Under the current proposal, judges serving in the FCC will retire at the age of 68 years — three years higher than the retirement age for Supreme Court judges, who retire at 65.

The new court will not be housed within the Supreme Court premises. Officials indicated that it is likely to be established in the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) building in Islamabad. In turn, the Federal Shariat Court is expected to be relocated to the third floor of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) building.

However, sources within the Shariat Court revealed that its judges are unhappy with their abrupt relocation and have raised their concerns before the Chief Justice of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for the oath-taking ceremony of the Chief Justice of the upcoming Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), which is likely to be held on November 13 (tomorrow).

The sources said that President Asif Ali Zardari is expected to give his assent to the 27th Amendment Bill by November 12 (today), paving the way for the establishment of the new judicial body.

Peace hinges on Kabul 'reining in' terror groups: PM

Continued from Page 1

outside it. The premier also talked about the brief military conflict between Pakistan and India earlier this year in May.

"In May, Pakistan faced unprovoked aggression from the eastern front. Our armed forces displayed remarkable preparedness and performed outstandingly on the battlefield," he said.

"Having won the war, we need to win peace, through sincere and honest efforts," he said.

He added that Pakistan's commitment to upholding peace and security was manifested by its constructive role at diplomatic forums including the United Nations (UN), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

'State of war'

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif claimed that Pakistan was "in a state of war".

"We are in a state of war. Anyone who thinks that the Pakistan Army is fighting this war in the Afghan-Pakistan border region and the remote areas of Balochistan should take today's suicide attack at the Islamabad district courts as a wake-up call: this is a war for all of Pakistan, in which the Pakistan Army is giving daily sacrifices and making the people feel secure," said the defence minister in a post on X.

"In this environment, it would be futile to hold out greater hope for successful negotiations with the rulers of Kabul."

He claimed Kabul could put a stop to the ongoing terrorism in Pakistan, "but bringing this war all the way to Islamabad is a message from Kabul, to which … Pakistan has the full strength to respond".

In an interview on *Hum News* show 'Faisla Aap Ka', the defence minister said he wanted to remain careful about talks with Afghanistan or their results since he could not say with absolute certainty that they would fail.

He added that negotiations should still be held but the decision would have to be taken by Pakistan's leadership and defence forces.

He said the Islamabad bombing was a "huge escalation in this war and we will have to seriously review what path we have to adopt for them".

He further said the attack, as well as the incident in Wana, had "raised the stakes in this state of war against Afghanistan".

"We should take this with the utmost seriousness," he added.

The defence minister said Pakistan was "prepared to face the enemy on both the western and eastern borders".

He added: "If these people want a final round and for all-out hostility to begin, then what other option will we have.

I am a proponent of negotiations but you should sit at the talking table with sincerity and the objective of peace should be pursued with sincerity."

INVITATION TO E-BID

THROUGH SAP ARIBA DISCOVERY

E-Bids are invited through SAP-ARIBA Discovery for the service/material given below under competitive bidding procedure as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules;

SR #	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-ADMIN-CB-60-3272-301789203-2025	SINGLE LINE DIAGRAM FOR THE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS OF OGDCL HEAD OFFICE	28.11.2025 AT 1030 Hrs
2.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-DO-302279518-2025	INTEGRATED WELL SERVICES	28.11.2025 AT 1030 Hrs
3.	OGDCL-FC-CB-PE AND FD-PUMP-301483882-2025	SPARES FOR NOV PLUNGER PUMP	15.12.2025 AT 1100 Hrs
4.	OGDCL-SCM-FD-CB-DS-301974753-2025	DOWNHOLE TOOLS	15.12.2025 AT 1100 Hrs
5.	OGDCL-SCM-FC-CB-PROJ-JM-302344956-2025	GAS DETECTORS	16.12.2025 AT 1100 Hrs

EXTENSION IN BID CLOSING & OPENING DATE

2. Reference our Tender Notice(s) published in newspapers on **09.10.2025,** it is notified that the bid submission/opening date of the following case is extended as follows:

SR #	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	REVISED CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDCL-FB-CB-PROD-299194871-2025	AGA-3 COMPLIANT 6 INCH AND 8 INCH METER RUNS WITH SENIOR ORIFICE METER	25.11.2025 AT 1100 Hrs

3. Bidders who have already submitted/sent their proposals (bids) may take them back and re-submit the same before the revised closing date and time mentioned above.
4. All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date & time.
5. Tender Notice/ detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk.
6. Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at https://ogdcl.com/sap-ariba-tenders or https://discovery.ariba.com/profile/AN01562899621 for details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.
7. OGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-33.

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